

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4726
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AGAINST WOMEN
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Department of Women and Child Welfare (WCD) have recently submitted its report to Planning Commission in which they have accepted that there are still several laws which are discriminatory against women;
- (b) if so, whether early amendment of those laws have been emphasized in this Report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with other recommendations made in the Report; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) The Department of Women and Child Development had recently sent its comments on the draft chapter on 'Empowerment of Women and Development of Children' of the Mid-term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan to the Planning Commission. A mention was made therein of the recommendations of the National Commission for Women in respect of certain Central laws, which have been reviewed to remove discriminatory provisions against women.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Statement indicating the gist of the recommendations made in the Central laws so identified is annexed.

(d) Action has already been initiated in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4726 FOR 19.12.2000 REGARDING DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AGAINST WOMEN.

Amendments proposed by the Department of Women and Child Development in various Central laws affecting women.

S.N	Name of Act	Gist of amendments proposed in the Act	Name of Ministry
	administratively concerned with the Act		

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
-----	-----	-----	-----

1. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987	i) Section 3 of the Act amended to provide that the Court would presume that the person committing sati is a victim rather than an offender.	Department of Women and Child Development	
--	--	---	--

ii) to widen the scope of the Act to cover those who abet the commission of sati by not attempting to prevent it.

iii)to raise the quantum of punishment for the offences under the Act to make it more stringent.

iv)to bring the offences under the jurisdiction of existing courts of competent jurisdiction, rather than only allowing special courts.

2. Indecent i)The title of the Act to be Department
Represent- amended to Derogatory and of Women
tation Indecent Representation of and Child
of Women Women (Prohibition) Act, Development

(Prohi-
bition) , ii) to amend Sections 2(a)
Act 1986 (amendment of the term
'advertisement' to include
electronic and other media),

iii) insert section 2(g) (definition
of the word 'publish' to cover
the web services).

iii) insertion of Section 4A (to
empower notified voluntary
organizations to make
complaints).

iv) amend section 6 (to enhance
punishment for the offences
under the Act)

3. Child Enhancement of punishment under Legislative
Marriage section 3, 4, 5 and 6. Department
Restraint Offences to be made cognizable
Act, 1929 through amendment in section 7,
provision for appointment of
Child Marriage Prevention
Officers by state Government
through amendment in section 13
and consequential amendment in
section 14 of the Act and also
in the Indian Penal Code, 1860

(section 361 relating to
kidnapping, section 362
relating to abduction and
section 373 relating to buying
of minor for purpose of
prostitution etc.) and in the
Code of Criminal Procedure,
1973.

4. The Sections 10(1) (b), 19(a) & (b) Legislative
Guardians and 21 (a) & (b) may be amended Department
and Wards to expand the scope of the Act
Act, 1890 to cover females as well as
males.

5. Indian Addition of the word 'mother' Legislative
Succession in Section 22(1) (a), use of Department
Act, the word 'parents' instead of

1925 father in section 22(1) (b),
and use of the word 'mother' in
addition to father in Section
60.

6. Hindu Amend Section 6 of the Act to Legislative
Succession give equal right over Department
Act, coparcenary property to the
1956 daughter of a deceased
coparcenar at par with the son.

7. Code of Amend section 125 of the Code Ministry
Criminal to raise the amount of monthly of Home
Procedure maintenance allowance uniformly Affairs
, 1973 to Rs. 5000/- on all-India
basis.